

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

(2) Please add new claims 19-38.

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (New): A sedimentation basin system for a two-phase suspension in which the heavy phase settles downwards by gravitational separation and a separation level is formed between the heavy phase and the light phase, said sedimentation basing system comprising:

a centrally disposed inlet construction with at least one suspension supply line;
and

at least one inlet which is adjustable in height and opens into said sedimentation basin in the region of the separation level, characterized in that said inlet has an inlet cross-section which is flowed through substantially horizontally and of which the relative height can be adapted continuously to the respective height of the separation level.

Claim 20 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 19, characterized by an arrangement for adjusting the height of said inlet cross-section as a function of the volume flow and/or the density of the introduced suspension.

Claim 21 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 20, characterized in that said suspension supply line comprises a substantially vertical inlet pipe which passes through the base of said sedimentation basin; said inlet pipe is constructed so as to be adjustable in height or telescopic; the upper end of said inlet pipe merges into a substantially horizontal inlet surface; a deflector plate is disposed above said inlet surface, parallel thereto and at an adjustable distance therefrom; and the distance between said inlet surface and said deflector defines the height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 22 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 20, characterized in that said suspension supply line opens into an inlet pipe; a concentric annular plate is disposed so as to be adjustable in height on the outer wall of said inlet pipe; above said annular plate there is disposed a pipe ring which surrounds said inlet

pipe of said suspension supply line concentrically at least in the region of its upper edge; said pipe ring is adjustable in height or of telescopic construction; and wherein the distance between the lower edge of said pipe ring and the upper face of said annular plate defines the height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 23 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 20, characterized in that said suspension supply line opens into said inlet pipe; said inlet pipe is adjustable in height or of telescopic construction; a substantially horizontal deflector plate is disposed so as to be adjustable in height above the free end of said inlet pipe; the distance between the upper edge of said inlet pipe and the underside of said deflector plate defines the variable height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 24 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 19, characterized in that said suspension supply line is connected to at least one inlet conduit which is adjustable in height, a wall of said inlet conduit having outlet openings; said inlet pipe extends concentrically around the center of said sedimentation basin.

Claim 25 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 19, characterized in that at least one flow deflector is disposed above said inlet.

Claim 26 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 25, characterized in that said flow deflector extends at an acute angle of inclination upwards in the direction of said separation level, wherein said angle of inclination of said flow deflector is adjustable.

Claim 27 (new): A sedimentation basin system for a two-phase suspension, in which the heavy phase settles downwards by gravitational separation and a separation level is formed between the heavy phase and the light phase, said sedimentation basin system comprising:

- a suspension supply line;

- at least one inlet which is adjustable in height and opens into said sedimentation basin in the region of said separation level;

- wherein said inlet is disposed in the region of the edge of said sedimentation basin; and

- wherein the relative height of said inlet can be adapted to the respective height of said separation level.

Claim 28 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 27, characterized in that said suspension supply line comprises an intake basin which extends along at least a section of the edge of said sedimentation basin; a partition is disposed between said intake basin and said sedimentation basin.

Claim 29 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 28, characterized in that said partition is adjustable in height or is of telescopic construction; said partition merges at its upper edge into a horizontal inlet surface; a deflector plate is disposed above said inlet surface, parallel thereto and at an adjustable distance therefrom; the distance between said inlet surface and the underside of said deflector plate defines the height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 30 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 28, characterized in that a substantially horizontal inlet plate is disposed so as to be adjustable in height on said partition; a boundary wall is provided above said inlet plate, spaced from and substantially parallel to said partition; said boundary wall is adjustable in height or of telescopic construction; the distance between the lower edge of said boundary wall and the upper face of said inlet plate defines the height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 31 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 28, characterized in that said partition has a plurality of slots disposed one above the other; said slots can be completely or partially opened and closed individually or in combination by means of closure elements.

Claim 32 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 28, characterized in that the height of said partition is adjustable; towards the top said intake basin is covered by a horizontal cover plate which is adjustable in height; the distance between the upper edge of said partition and the underside of said cover plate defines the variable height of said inlet cross-section.

Claim 33 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 27, characterized by an inlet conduit which is adjustable in height and of which the wall has outlet openings.

Claim 34 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 27, characterized by at least two inlet conduits disposed one above the other, each with at least one inlet slot.

Claim 35 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 27, characterized in that at least one flow deflector is disposed above said inlet.

Claim 36 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 35, characterized in that said flow deflector extends at an acute angle of inclination upwards in the direction of said separation level.

Claim 37 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 36, characterized in that the angle of inclination of said flow deflector is adjustable.

Claim 38 (New): The sedimentation basin system as set fourth in claim 37, characterized by an arrangement for controlling said angle of inclination of said flow deflector as a function of said relative height of said inlet.